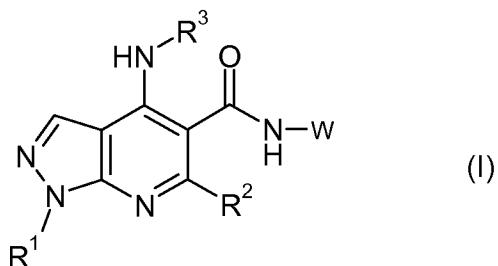


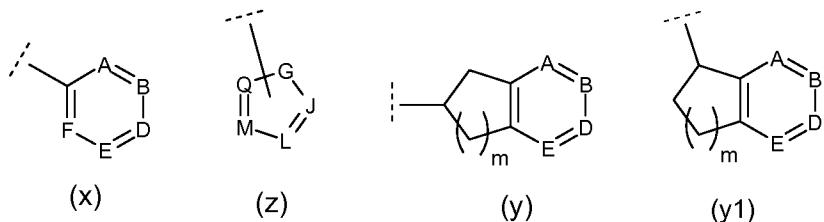
ABSTRACT

Pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine compounds, and their use as PDE4 inhibitors

The invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof:



wherein W is Ar, -CR⁴R⁵Ar or a group (y) or (y1), wherein Ar is (x) or (z):

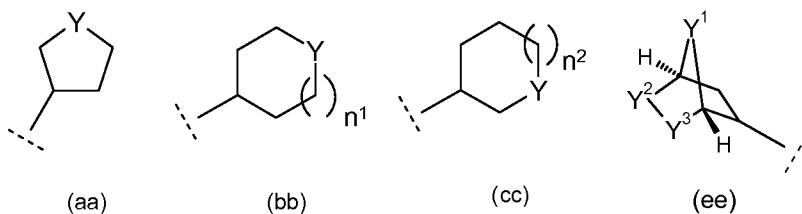


R¹ is C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₃fluoroalkyl or -CH₂CH₂OH.

R² is C₂₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl or -(CH₂)_n-C₃₋₆cycloalkyl;

and R³ is optionally substituted C₃₋₈cycloalkyl, optionally substituted

mono-unsaturated-C₅₋₇cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group (aa), (bb) or (cc) (in which Y is O, S, SO₂, or NR¹⁰), or a bicyclic group (ee):



These compounds are PDE4 inhibitors.